

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-4. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Submitted with the present response is an application data sheet (ADS) setting forth the post office address of each inventor. The submission of the application data sheet is believed to address the issue noted in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

Substitute drawings are submitted with the present response, which are formal drawings of Figures 1-4; no changes have been made to the substitute drawings. With respect to the objections to the drawings noted in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the terms noted as not shown in the drawings are now added to the specification, and thus the drawings are believed to be consistent with the specification.

A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format is submitted herein to address the objection noted in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11-16, and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8-10, and 17 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 20 was noted as having an inconsistency. Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,425,964 to Southwell et al. (herein "Southwell"). Claims 1, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,151,295 to Kawahara et al. (herein "Kawahara"). Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,503,707 to Maung et al. (herein "Maung") in view of U.S. patent 4,311,725 to Holland. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maung in view of Holland in further view of U.S. patent 5,661,669 to Mozumder et al. (herein "Mozumder"). Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maung in view of Holland in further view of U.S. patent

4,527,510 to Arndt and U.S. patent 4,144,837 to Johnston. Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Southwell in view of Arndt and Johnston.

Claims 4 and 20 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 11-14 are allowed.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowance and allowable subject matter in claims 4, 11-14, and 20.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response. More particularly, claim 18 is amended by the present response to now indicate what the noted equation elements represent, similarly as in original dependent claim 4. The amendments to claim 18 are believed to address the rejection thereto under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now each of the prior art rejections, the claims are amended by the present response to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding office action.

More particularly, independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to incorporate the limitations of previously pending dependent claims 2 and 4. Thus, independent claim 1 now corresponds to original dependent claim 4 rewritten in independent form. That subject matter was noted as allowable in paragraph 26 of the outstanding Office Action. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Similarly, independent claims 6 and 15 are amended by the present response to incorporate similar features as added into independent claim 1 from original dependent claim 4, which features are noted as allowable. Thus, amended independent claims 6 and 15 are also believed to be allowable.

Further, independent claim 19 is amended by the present response to incorporate the limitations from previously pending dependent claim 20, which subject matter was also

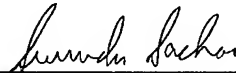
indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, independent claim 19 is also believed to be allowable.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit each of the currently pending claims recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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